

**Clean Version:**

Please amend the present application as follows:

**IN THE TITLE:**

~~Please amend the title to read "Microstructured Optical Fiber".~~

*a 1*

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

*N<sup>2</sup>*  
In an optical fiber including a core region and cladding regions of not less than three layers which surrounds the core region in order, each of said cladding regions has a mean refractive index different from those of the adjacent regions, at least one of the cladding regions has a lower mean refractive index than both adjacent regions, and at least one cladding region is provided with a plurality of sub medium regions each having a refractive index lower than a main medium constituting this cladding region.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the following paragraphs of the specification.

Replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 1 and 2 with:

**MICROSTRUCTURED OPTICAL FIBER**

Replace the fourth paragraph at page 3, lines 24-26 and page 4, lines 1-6 with: